

10/580909

WP20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 30 MAY 2006

PATENT

DK-US040366

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of :  
:   
Tadashi SAO et al. :  
:   
Serial No.: New-Nat'l phase of :  
PCT/JP2005/009451 :  
:   
International filing date: May 24, 2005 :  
:   
For: BRANCHING PIPE JOINT AND :  
AN AIR CONDITIONER PROVIDED :  
THEREWITH (As Amended) :

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, please amend the subject application as follows.

**Amendments to the Title** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 3 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Abstract** begin on page 9 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the Listing of Claims, which begins on page 10 of this paper. Claims 1-14 are pending, with claim 1 being the only independent claim.

**Amendments to the Drawings** begin on page 16 of this paper and include one (1) attached replacement sheet.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 17 of this paper.

Serial No.: New – PCT/ JP2005/009451 Nat'l Phase '  
Filed: Herewith

**AMENDMENTS TO THE TITLE:**

Please replace the title of this application with the following rewritten version:

BRANCHING PIPE COUPLING JOINT AND AN AIR CONDITIONER  
PROVIDED WITH ~~THE SAME~~ THEREWITH